

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700204

#### **A. List of Restoration Activities**

The Salt Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) was established by the California Desert Conservation Act, 1980 (CDCA) through a partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the BLM for the protection of washes, seeps and springs which provide habitat for several special status species. In 1998, through a cooperative planning effort with BLM, TNC, US FWS, Biological Resources Division of the US Geological Survey, CA Department of Fish and Game, and the CA Department of Parks and Recreation, the Salt Creek ACEC was expanded into the Dos Palmas ACEC with a mission to safeguard the ecological sustainability and natural diversity of this unique ecosystem. The land in and around the Dos Palmas ACEC is non-contiguous BLM property inter-mixed with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and privately-owned property. In cooperation with these partners, the BLM has been actively acquiring lands and restoring Dos Palmas ACEC to its natural conditions by managing the water regime, removing noxious plant populations (such as Salt Cedar, *Tamarix ramosissima*), and re-establishing native plant species. The BLM spends roughly \$500,000 per year on restoration and management of the ACEC.

Biological resource values within the ACEC include desert fan palm oasis woodland, desert dry wash woodland, mesquite bosque, stabilized desert sand fields, desert saltbush scrub, desert sink scrub, and freshwater marsh. The ACEC provides habitat for special status species, including the desert pupfish, Yuma clapper rail, California black rail, flat-tailed horned lizard, yellow bat, and the Palm Springs pocket mouse. The ACEC contains prehistoric and historic cultural resources representative of the prehistory and history of Riverside County. Cultural resources include Native American archaeological sites focused around the shorelines of ancient Lake Cahuilla, historic grave sites, the Bradshaw Trail and associated Dos Palmas stage stop.

An estimated 96,000 off-road vehicles are registered in Riverside County, ranking it the third highest in the state. With an additional 150,000 vehicles registered in the surrounding counties, the sustainability and natural diversity of the Dos Palmas ACEC and adjacent Federal lands are increasingly being impacted by the continued increase in off-highway vehicle activity. Recent passage of an OHV ordinance in Riverside County and enforcement of illegal riding on private lands by the county sheriff, combined with the lack of legal or desirable riding areas, has diverted an increasing amount of OHV traffic to public lands. While most of the off-highway use at Dos Palmas is originating from local OHV enthusiasts who reside in North Shore, Coachella and Indio, off-highway enthusiasts from as far away as Los Angeles and San Diego spend long weekends at Drop 31 just to the west of the ACEC, using the site as a base camp or staging area to ride out into the surrounding desert. Increasingly, Dos Palmas ACEC is experiencing damage from OHV activity and its associated disturbances including erosion, spreading of invasive weed seeds, and habitat degradation. More recently, vandalism has occurred within the restoration areas, to water transfer systems and site facilities. A human caused fire in April of 2008 from party goers in the main oasis burned over 450 acres of the unique oases habitat.

Using grant funds from the OHMVR, the BLM proposes to construct approximately 20,500 linear feet (3.9 miles) of t-post and four strand wire fencing and erect signage on BLM and BOR property along the northeast and western buffers of the ACEC where there has been continuous resource damage from OHV traffic. Construction activities will occur along the outer perimeter of the ACEC and away from the seeps and springs that are associated with most habitat concerns. The fence would be built to current BLM standards, including but not limited to wildlife-safe fence design and engineering specifications for strength and durability. Ground disturbance for fence construction would be limited to pounding T-posts into the ground approximately two (2) feet deep and installing brace panels every 200-400 feet. Some manual brushing within a five (5) foot disturbance zone along the immediate pathway of the proposed fence would be required during fence installation by use of loppers and handsaws. Vegetative disturbance would be minimal due the low density of vegetative cover in much of the proposed project area. This project would augment fencing that was installed along the northeast boundary of the ACEC in 2008 with a California Desert District grant awarded from OHMVR.

The extensions of existing fencing would provide a comprehensive barrier to unauthorized OHV use and serve to better achieve the above-stated objectives.

## **B. How the Proposed Project Relates to OHV Recreation**

Unauthorized OHV use in the Dos Palmas area has resulted in reduced vegetative cover, soil disturbance as well as negative impacts to wildlife and culturally sensitive areas within and around the ACEC. The increase in OHV use also increases the frequency of trespass into private lands owned by the San Diego County Water Authority that are managed as part of the ACEC. OHV users regularly gain entry into the pools associated with the palm groves that have been set aside for wildlife habitat and restoration mitigation through the washes and old dirt roads. Unfortunately, the ease of access to the area allowed by OHV use promotes undesirable weekend parties, trash, vandalism, and most recently, human-induced fire. Numerous attempts have been made to sign the boundaries but signs are either ignored or torn down as soon as they are installed. Although the majority of the riders are aware they are riding in a closed area, due to the flat and numerous unauthorized routes that have been created, many conscientious riders unknowingly enter and ride within the ACEC as well.

The proposed fence line is designed to reduce damage that is occurring to natural and cultural resources from OHV traffic within an area that is managed for resource protection and restoration. This project will not have a negative effect on OHV recreation since it will be fencing an area that is not designated open to authorized OHV riding by the Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Land Use Plan (2002). The installation of the fence and signage will provide a clear boundary between open and closed riding areas, therefore reducing conflicts between OHV riders, law enforcement and restoration activities as well as permitted recreational uses within the ACEC such as hiking, wildlife viewing and photography. The reduction in unauthorized routes and access would improve the area's visual resource values and provide a more natural setting for primitive and unconfined recreational opportunities. Signage installed along the fence line would provide an educational opportunity to explain the significance of the ACEC and invite OHV riders to park their vehicles and bikes and continue into the site to explore the area on foot. Installation of the fence and signage, in conjunction with increased law patrol and educational efforts will serve to enhance the OHV riders experience in this section of the desert.

## **C. Size of Project Site**

The proposed fence line to be constructed is 21,000 linear feet (3.9 miles) in length and in conjunction with existing fence lines, would help protect the entire 15,153 acre Dos Palmas ACEC. More directly, the proposed fence line, which will be constructed along the northwest and western buffer area around the ACEC, will directly protect approximately 7,000 acres.

## **D. Monitoring and Methodology**

Site monitoring of the project will include regular patrols of the fence line to check for vandalism and intrusions. Monitoring report forms will be completed by law enforcement, restoration and recreation personnel on a regular basis. Photo documentation of any vandalism to the fence line or information signs will be provided. The project site will also be monitored for compliance and frequency of use by OHV riders who park their vehicles and continue into the ACEC on foot to explore the area.

Photo documentation: Photo documentation for the project will consist of pre and post construction photos. Additional post-construction photos and compliance monitoring will take place periodically for the next three years.

Data on Monitoring Prescription: Initial monitoring will include general information such as date, time, location, photo reference, and site characteristics including current OHV use and frequency. Follow-up monitoring will document the success or failure as well as any persistent disturbance by OHV traffic.

OHV compliance: Follow-up monitoring will document success of the project in terms of OHV rider compliance by documenting the reduction and/or elimination of intrusion into the ACEC. Compliance monitoring will track success of the fence project based on evidence of OHV use. If vandalism and trespass is absent, then the project will be considered successful. If OHV intrusions continue into the ACEC, it will be considered unsuccessful, and additional measures will be explored to obtain OHV compliance. Any intrusions into ACEC by OHV users will be reported to the recreation planner or project supervisor as soon as they are observed.

**E. List of Reports**

**F. Goals, Objectives and Methodology / Peer Reviews**

**G. Plan for Protection of Restored Area**

The constructed fence line will be patrolled on a regular basis by law enforcement rangers, on-site restoration crews and the recreation planner as part of the monitoring component of the project. If damage or vandalism occurs to the fence, repairs will be made as soon as the damage is documented to reduce further damage or intrusion. Reflective decals will be placed on the fence line where old roads or trails cross the ACEC boundary to reduce vehicle collision at night. Information signs will be posted at predetermined intervals with an emphasis placed on areas of previous intrusion by OHV activity. Signs will include standard carsonite signs with strip decals on designated routes to indicate authorized versus non-authorized routes near the fence line and along the ACEC boundary. Larger 12" by 18" informational signs will be installed in areas of past intrusion to describe the significance and importance of the ACEC and the damage that OHV activity can cause. This sign will also invite OHV riders to park their vehicles and continue to explore the ACEC on foot.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700204

**1. Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Dos Palmas Project Location Map](#)

[Dos Palmas Fence Location Map](#)

**2. Project-Specific Photos**

Attachments:

[Dos Palmas-Wadi Beadmaker OHV trespass](#)

[Dos Palmas-Wadi Beadmaker OHV hill climb](#)

[Dos Palmas oasis pool area after fire](#)

[Dos Palmas fire effects to palms](#)

[Dos Palmas OHV non-compliance with signs](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office  
Application: Restoration, Dos Palmas Fence

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Restoration, Dos Palmas Fence	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>The Salt Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) was established by the California Desert Conservation Act, 1980 (CDCA) through a partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the BLM for the protection of washes, seeps and springs which provide habitat for several special status species. In 1998, through a cooperative planning effort with BLM, TNC, US FWS, Biological Resources Division of the US Geological Survey, CA Department of Fish and Game, and the CA Department of Parks and Recreation, the Salt Creek ACEC was expanded into the Dos Palmas ACEC with a mission to safeguard the ecological sustainability and natural diversity of this unique ecosystem. The land in and around the Dos Palmas ACEC is non-contiguous BLM property inter-mixed with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and privately-owned property. In cooperation with these partners, the BLM has been actively acquiring lands and restoring Dos Palmas ACEC to it's natural conditions by managing the water regime, removing noxious plant populations (such as Salt Cedar, Tamarix ramosissima), and re-establishing native plant species. The BLM spends roughly \$500,000 per year on restoration and management of the ACEC.</p> <p>Biological resource values within the ACEC include desert fan palm oasis woodland, desert dry wash woodland, mesquite bosque, stabilized desert sand fields, desert saltbush scrub, desert sink scrub, and freshwater marsh. The ACEC provides habitat for special status species, including the desert pupfish, Yuma clapper rail, California black rail, flat-tailed horned lizard, yellow bat, and the Palm Springs pocket mouse. The ACEC contains prehistoric and historic cultural resources representative of the prehistory and history of Riverside County. Cultural resources include Native American archaeological sites focused around the shorelines of ancient Lake Cahuilla, historic grave sites, the Bradshaw Trail and associated Dos Palmas stage stop.</p> <p>An estimated 96,000 off-road vehicles are registered in Riverside County, ranking it the third highest in the state. With an additional 150,000 vehicles registered in the surrounding counties, the sustainability and natural diversity of the Dos Palmas ACEC and adjacent Federal lands are increasingly being impacted by the continued increase in off-highway vehicle activity. Recent passage of an OHV ordinance in Riverside County and enforcement of illegal riding on private lands by the county sheriff, combined with the lack of legal or desirable riding areas, has diverted an increasing amount of OHV traffic to public lands. While most of the off-highway use at Dos Palmas is originating from local OHV enthusiasts who reside in North Shore, Coachella and Indio, off-highway enthusiasts from as far away as Los Angeles and San Diego spend long weekends at Drop 31 just to the west of the ACEC, using the site as a base camp or staging area to ride out into the surrounding desert. Increasingly, Dos Palmas ACEC is experiencing damage from OHV activity and its associated disturbances including erosion, spreading of invasive weed seeds, and habitat degradation. More recently, vandalism has occurred within the restoration areas, to water transfer systems and site facilities. A human caused fire in April of 2008 from party goers in the main oasis burned over 450 acres of the unique oases habitat.</p> <p>Using grant funds from the OHMVR, the BLM proposes to construct approximately 20,500 linear feet (3.9 miles) of t-post and four strand wire fencing and erect signage on BLM and BOR property along the northeast and western buffers of the ACEC where there has been continuous resource damage from OHV traffic. Construction activities will occur along the outer perimeter of the ACEC and away from the seeps and springs that are associated with most habitat concerns. The fence would be built to current BLM standards, including but not limited to wildlife-safe fence design and engineering specifications for strength and durability. Ground disturbance for fence construction would be limited to pounding T-posts into the ground approximately two (2) feet deep and installing brace panels every 200-400 feet. Some manual brushing within a five (5) foot disturbance zone along the immediate pathway of the proposed fence would be required during fence installation by use of loppers and handsaws. Vegetative disturbance would be minimal due the low density of vegetative cover in much of the proposed project area. This project would augment fencing that was installed along the northeast boundary of the ACEC</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
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6/2/2009

		in 2008 with a California Desert District grant awarded from OHMVR. The extensions of existing fencing would provide a comprehensive barrier to unauthorized OHV use and serve to better achieve the above-stated objectives.					
	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>Staff</b>						
	OHV Coordinator	180.000	42.000	HRS	3,860.00	3,700.00	7,560.00
	Ecologist Notes : term employee	330.000	40.000	HRS	6,700.00	6,500.00	13,200.00
	Other-Biologist	180.000	40.000	HRS	3,600.00	3,600.00	7,200.00
	Archeologist	520.000	45.000	HRS	9,900.00	13,500.00	23,400.00
	Recreation Planner	200.000	47.000	HRS	0.00	9,400.00	9,400.00
	Other-Land Surveyor	240.000	47.000	HRS	10,080.00	1,200.00	11,280.00
	Other-LE Ranger	600.000	50.000	HRS	10,000.00	20,000.00	30,000.00
	Other-Maintenance Lead	160.000	47.000	HRS	0.00	7,520.00	7,520.00
	Other-NEPA Specialist	160.000	54.000	HRS	0.00	8,640.00	8,640.00
	Other-GIS Specialist	160.000	37.000	HRS	0.00	5,920.00	5,920.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				44,140.00	79,980.00	124,120.00
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-Fencing Contractor Notes : fencing contractor to include the cost of the contractor and all fencing materials and installation.	1.000	125000.000	EA	125,000.00	0.00	125,000.00
	Other-Volunteer Hrs Donated	240.000	18.000	HRS	0.00	4,320.00	4,320.00
	<b>Total for Contracts</b>				125,000.00	4,320.00	129,320.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office  
 Application: Restoration, Dos Palmas Fence

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
3	Materials / Supplies						
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-Admin Costs	1.000	9000.000	EA	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>					178,140.00	84,300.00	262,440.00
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					178,140.00	84,300.00	262,440.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>					<b>178,140.00</b>	<b>84,300.00</b>	<b>262,440.00</b>

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: BLM - Palm Springs South Coast Field Office  
Application: Restoration, Dos Palmas Fence

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	44,140.00	79,980.00	124,120.00	
2	Contracts	125,000.00	4,320.00	129,320.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		178,140.00	84,300.00	262,440.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		178,140.00	84,300.00	262,440.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>178,140.00</b>	<b>84,300.00</b>	<b>262,440.00</b>	



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Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700204

**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

No wetlands or navigable waters are included within the project area. It has been determined that the project would not result in significant impacts on wetlands or navigable waters. It has been determined that this project is not likely to adversely affect, but to have a potential beneficial effect on sensitive species and their associated habitat. See pages 11 and 12 of attached Environmental Assessment: CA660-08-28.

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

It has been determined that cumulative impacts from this project will not increase noise or traffic.

See page 15 of the attached Environmental Assessment: CA660-08-28.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information on cumulative impacts:

- California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980 (as amended)
- California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (CDCA-CV), 2002
- Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) Coordinated Management Plan, 2002

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

The possibility of the proposed action significantly affecting the environment due to steep slopes or highly erosive soils is negligible. Due to the nature of the project, equipment used to install fencing would be limited to gently sloping areas with low erosion potential. Any efforts to close unauthorized OHV routes on steep slopes would be limited to work with hand tools. Since the designated route system has been reviewed and authorized by the land use plans, there is a low likelihood that any of the designated route maintenance proposed in this project would occur on steep slopes or areas with high erosive potential. Surface disturbance because of the proposed action would be minimized by implementation of Best Management Practices (see attached document).

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

The project area is not within the view shed of any scenic highways and has no potential for damage to scenic resources associated with a state scenic highway. For a discussion of visual resource management in conjunction with this proposed project, see pages 8, 9, 12 and 14 of the attached Environmental Assessment: CA660-08-28.

**ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

**ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

**ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

This project would not cause any indirect significant impacts that would cause user groups to go elsewhere, result in significant impacts off-site, or cause a significant increase in OHV use near the project site. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office (PSSC FO) provides sufficient legal OHV opportunities through the management of approximately 1,500 miles of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) routes. Associated land use plans have already designated these authorized routes of travel. This project would not close any authorized routes of travel. By monitoring and/or maintaining designated routes and closing and/or restoring user-created, unauthorized routes, this project would implement land use decision plans. An improved delineation of authorized versus unauthorized routes by way of signage, physical barricades, law enforcement, education, and/or restoration efforts would improve OHV compliance.

For a discussion of recreation in conjunction with this proposed project, see pages 6-15 of the attached Environmental Assessment: CA660-08-28.

Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

- California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980 (as amended)
- California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment for the Coachella Valley (CDCA-CV), 2002
- Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) Coordinated Management Plan, 2002

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[NEPA CEQA](#)

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Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700204

**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the Project costs covered by the Applicant is: 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 2.**

2. Natural and Cultural Resources - Failure to fund the Project will result in adverse impacts to: 27

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Domestic water supply (4 points)  
☒ Archeological and historical resources identified in the California Register of Historical Resources or the Federal Register of Historic Places (3 points )  
☒ Stream or other watercourse (3 points)  
☒ Soils - Site actively eroding (2 points)  
☒ Sensitive areas (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of sensitive habitats [3]  
☒ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) listed species (2 point each, up to a maximum of 6) Enter number of T&E species [3]  
☒ Other special-status species- Number of special-status species (1 point each, up to a maximum of 3) Enter number of special-status species [3]

Describe the type and severity of impacts that might occur relative to the checked item(s):

Restoration facilities, office and residence obtain water from artesian wells. Residences to southeast obtain water from downstream wells. Cultural resources include Native American sites, historical resources include Rancho Dos Palmas, historic graves, Bradshaw Trail and Dos Palmas stage stop. ACEC is a significant portion of the west fork of Salt Creek watershed. Artesian wells and countless seeps provide water to oases and ponds which provide habitat for special status species. Plateau soils in western area are impacted by numerous trails created by OHVs causing down cutting, erosion and windblown sand which reduces air quality in area. Sensitive areas include ACEC, desert riparian zones, wetlands, ponds, and unique desert palm oases. Special status species within the ACEC include Threatened desert Pupfish, California Black and Yuma clapper rails; and BLM sensitive species Palm Springs Pocket Mouse and Flat tailed Horned Lizard and the Western Yellow Bat which is a state species of concern.

**3. Reason for Project - Q 3.**

3. Reason for the Project 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Protect special-status species or cultural site (4 points)  
☐ Restore natural resource system damaged by OHV activity (4 points)  
☐ OHV activity in a closed area (3 points)  
☐ Alternative measures attempted, but failed (2 points)  
☐ Management decision (1 point)  
☐ Scientific and cultural studies (1 point)  
☐ Planning efforts associated with Restoration (1 point)

Reference Document

California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, 2002; Northern and Eastern Colorado Management Plan, (2002). Dos Palmas ACEC Management Plan, 1998; Coachella Valley Habitat Conservation Management Plan, 2007; Late Prehistoric human Ecology at Lake Cahuilla, Coachella Valley, CA. PhD Dissertation, 1976; The Challenge of Archaeological Research in the Colorado Desert, Journal of Great Basin Anthropology, Vol. 16; Cal. Dept. of Fish and Game Desert Pupfish Assessment for the Salt Creek Watershed, 2000.

**4. Measures to Ensure Success - Q 4.**

4. Measures to ensure success –The Project makes use of the following elements to ensure successful implementation 12

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Site monitoring to prevent additional damage
- ☒ Construction of barriers and other traffic control devices
- ☒ Use of native plants and materials
- ☒ Incorporation of universally recognized 'Best Management Practices'
- ☒ Educational signage
- ☒ Identification of alternate OHV routes to ensure that OHV activities will not reoccur in restored area

Explain each item checked above:

Site monitoring will be conducted by BLM staff including law enforcement rangers and other agencies working in cooperation with BLM on restoration of the ACEC. Native plants are currently being reestablished in cooperation with the Coachella Valley Water District and the San Diego County Water Authority. Development and placement of interpretive and boundary signs along the fence line will provide notification of the ACEC restoration efforts. BLM has partnered with the Riverside County Sheriff's department as well as other local law enforcement agencies to educate OHV riders on the location of designated routes in the area where they are authorized to ride. Implementation of the NECO plan route signing strategy will clarify which routes are authorized for riding. Staff and crews will be following the BLM's established BMP's during restoration efforts and construction of fence.

**5. Publicly Reviewed Plan - Q 5.**

5. Is there a publicly reviewed and adopted plan (e.g., wilderness designation, land management plans, route designation decisions) that supports the need for the Restoration Project? 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (5 points)

Identify plan

Dos Palmas ACEC Management Plan, 1998; California Desert Conservation Area Plan Amendment, 2002; Northern and Eastern Colorado Management Plan, 2002; Coachella Valley Habitat Conservation Management Plan, 2007; Colorado Canal Lining Project EIS, 2001; Species Assessment for Habitat Conservation Plan, UC Riverside, 2004; Cal. Dept. of Fish and Game Desert Pupfish Assessment for the Salt Creek Watershed, 2000. US Bureau of Reclamation Treatment and Mitigation Plan for Wadi Beadmaker cultural area to address damage from OHV use. (Draft, 2008)

**6. Primary Funding Source - Q 6.**

6. Primary funding source for future operational costs associated with the Project will be: 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ Applicant's operational budget (5 points)
- ☐ Volunteer support and/or donations (3 points)
- ☐ Other Grant funding (2 points)
- ☐ OHV Trust Funds (No points)

If 'Operational budget' is checked, list reference document(s):

Combination of funding from the BLM operations budget for BLM multi disciplinary staff; and funding from the San Diego County Water Authority and the Coachella Valley Water District for habitat restoration projects under a ten year restoration and management agreement.

**7. Public Input - Q 7.**

7. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 1 point each, up to a maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)  
☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Meetings with cooperative partners including California State Parks, California Department of Fish & Game, the Coachella Valley Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation and other resource agencies.

**8. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 8.**

8. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)  
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

U. S Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) , San Diego County Water Authority, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), Center For National Lands Management (CNLM).

**9. Scientific and Cultural Studies - Q 9.**

9. Scientific and cultural studies will

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Determine appropriate Restoration techniques (2 points)  
☐ Examine potential effects of OHV Recreation on natural or cultural resources (2 points)  
☐ Examine methods to ensure success of Restoration efforts (1 point)  
☐ Lead to direct management action (1 point)

Explain each item checked above

**10. Underlying Problem - Q 10.**

10. The underlying problem that resulted in the need for the Restoration Project has been effectively addressed and resolved 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ No (No points) ☒ Yes (3 points)

Explain 'Yes' answer

To address the ongoing problems with incursions, the local BLM ranger has increased patrols in and around the Dos Palmas ACEC, along with assistance from the State Parks ranger from the adjacent Salton Sea State Recreation area. The Coachella Valley Association of Government (CVAG) OHV Task Force has also stepped up patrols along the Aqueduct and ACEC. Completion of a one mile segment of fence line on the north side of the ACEC boundary last year along with additional signage has helped reduce incursion in that section. ACEC staff routinely patrol the boundaries and make repairs to the existing fence line and replace signs as incidents occur. Staff will also provide public contact and information to anyone found riding within the ACEC area. The proposed fence line will serve to close a large gap in ACEC area and therefore, successfully address the issues.

**11. Size of sensitive habitats - Q 11.**

11. Size of sensitive habitats (e.g., wilderness, riparian, wetlands, ACEC) within the Project Area which will be restored 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ Greater than 10 acres (5 points)  
☒ 1 – 10 acres (3 points)  
☐ Less than 1 acre (1 points)  
☐ No sensitive habitat within Project Area (No points)